

has served our community in so many other ways including serving on the boards of St. Rita's School for the Deaf, the Pontifical College Josephinum, Catholic University of America and the coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati.

He holds a masters degree from Xavier University and a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati, as well as seven honorary degrees. In addition, he has authored 18 books as well as numerous articles.

Daniel Pilarczyk is a Southwest Ohio native and he has given so much back to our community. I've had the chance to work with him in his role as founding board member of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Greater Cincinnati where he made an important contribution as a thoughtful and dedicated board member and a person with a sincere interest in our youth and their future.

All of us in Southwest Ohio wish Archbishop Pilarczyk the very best on the 25th anniversary of his ordination as bishop. We are proud to count him as one of our true religious, spiritual, and community leaders.

INTRODUCTION OF PRIVATE RELIEF BILL

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a private relief bill for Gui Di Chen which will allow her to adjust status to permanent resident as an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. Ms. Chen's husband, Robert Lem, died before the Immigration and Naturalization Service could approve his wife's petition to become a permanent resident.

Under our immigration law, the INS cannot adjudicate Gui Di Chen's petition because she was married less than two years to Robert Lem before he passed away. The fact that Ms. Chen lived with Mr. Lem for three years does not matter under the eyes of the law. Without the enactment of this private relief bill, Ms. Chen faces a dire and uncertain future in China, a country she hasn't been to in nearly ten years.

There is, moreover, ample precedent for such relief. For instance, the 105th Congress passed and the President signed into law at least two private relief bills, H.R. 1794 (Private Law 105-7) and H.R. 1834 (Private Law 105-8), that allowed the widowed alien spouses of Americans to adjust status to permanent resident. In both of these cases, the alien spouses were married less than two years to their U.S. citizen spouses.

Mr. Speaker, Gui Di Chen's case is compounded by a tale of woe and misfortune that rivals a Greek tragedy. In less than eight years, Ms. Chen has lost two husbands who died suddenly and before her immigrant petitions could be processed. In 1990, Ms. Chen and her son joined her husband, Zheng-Ming Wu, in the United States. Mr. Wu was completing a graduate degree at the time. Mr. Wu was fortunate enough to find an employer who filed an employer-based immigrant petition on his behalf. However, on September 6, 1991,

just five days before Gui Di Chen, her son and husband were scheduled for an INS immigrant interview, Mr. Wu was killed in a car accident.

According to the police report that was filed, Mr. Wu was driving on the San Bernardino Freeway and developed car trouble. His car was stopped in an H.O.V. lane when he was rear-ended by an 18-year-old who was driving on a suspended license and without insurance. Ms. Chen received no compensation for her husband's death. In addition, the INS told Ms. Chen and her son that their application for permanent resident status was denied due to the death of Mr. Wu.

After the tragic loss of her first husband, Gui Di Chen was fortunate enough to fall in love again. Mr. Lem and Ms. Chen were married on March 31, 1997. Tragedy would strike once again when Mr. Lem died of a heart attack on June 16, 1998. Not only did Ms. Chen lose her husband, she also lost the opportunity to become a permanent resident.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that Gui Di Chen is not victimized once again by the vagaries of fate and is allowed to finally adjust to permanent resident status. She deserves nothing less.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS, SPANGLER, PENN- SYLVANIA

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on December 17, 1999, the Holy Cross Parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Holy Cross, Spangler, Pennsylvania.

Throughout our area and our Nation, we find such churches as the centers of our community, the fabric of our community spirit, and the strength of families. The Church of the Holy Cross has celebrated 2,735 baptisms, 622 weddings. It has held 1,332 funerals to send its faithful home. These events chronicle the history of the families in the region.

Plans for the present church structure were drawn by architect William East and built by John S. Drumm at a cost of \$4,800 according to the contract signed on July 8, 1899. On December 17th of that year, the Rt. Reverend Leander Scherr, O.S.B., Archabbott, St. Vincent Archabbey of Latrobe, dedicated the church. It was served by the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent Archabbey until 1984 and since then by the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

The strength of our great nation comes not from decisions made in Washington, but from the enduring community strength, family commitments and individual ideals to which our house of worship provided the central underpinnings. The Church of the Holy Cross has been a part of that national strength for one hundred years; an integral factor in the growth of our nation and our region of Pennsylvania.

It is an honor for me to recognize the continuing role of the Church of the Holy Cross,

of the church's twenty-fifth pastor, Father David J. Arseneault, and the individuals in the Parish that have made the Church of the Holy Cross endure for 100 years.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GEN- ERAL (RETIRED) LAVERN E. WEBER

HON. ERNEST J. ISTOOK, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 27, 2000

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay my respects to a great American, former Adjutant General of Oklahoma, previous Director of the Army National Guard, prior Chief of the National Guard Bureau and past Executive Director of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Lieutenant General Weber, a native of Lone Wolf, Oklahoma, was the first Three-Star General to head the National Guard Bureau. He held that post from August 1974 until August 1982. He continued his service at United States Forces Command until his retirement on June 30, 1984, which concluded 42 years of military service with the United States Marine Corps, the Marine Corps Reserve and the Army National Guard.

Lieutenant General Weber served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he joined the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th infantry division. His unit was called to active duty September 1950 and then Captain Weber was soon serving as a Company Commander, and later the Operations and Training Officer. During a combat tour in Korea, he was promoted to the rank of Major a month before his release from active duty in June 1952 when he returned to National Guard Status in the Oklahoma National Guard.

He graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in December 1955 and was assigned as assistant intelligence officer, 45th Infantry Division. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on May 15, 1959, and in April 1961 was assigned as Chief of Personnel, 45th Infantry Division, and served in that position until November 1964. He became Chief of Staff, 45th Infantry Division with his promotion to Colonel on November 18, 1964.

On March 8, 1965, he was promoted to Major General, concurrent with his appointment as the Adjutant General of Oklahoma. He served in that position until his appointment as Director of the Army National Guard, in October 1971.

On June 29, 1979, the Chief of Staff U.S. Army promoted him to Lieutenant General, the grade at which he would retire in 1984. He was appointed as the full-time Executive Director of NGAUS effective July 1, 1984. In the past few years, he had been a consultant on national defense matters.

Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor of and respect for this great American—Lieutenant General Lavern Weber.